

RE: NWOD Sediment Characterization Study - Response to Comments

Briefer, Laura to: 'Elizabeth Palmer'

12/29/2010 12:08 PM

From: "Briefer, Laura" <Laura.Briefer@slcgov.com>

To:

Cc: hernandez.kathryn@epa.gov, Bill Rees <brees@utah.gov>, "Ferry, Steve M (bp)" <Steve.Ferry@bp.com>, "Pak, Eugene" <EugenePak@chevron.com>

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Dear Liz:

I apologize for taking so long to get back to you on this; I have been traveling for the holiday and just got to a point where I can respond. I will be traveling back to Salt Lake City tomorrow and Friday, and will be back in the office on Monday.

We completed the field work for the Segment 1 Sediment Characterization Study, and are in the process of compiling data and completing laboratory work, so we don't yet have final results to give you. That said, we can provide some preliminary information to give you an idea what we have seen so far:

- Each of the 37 soil borings collected at ~ 100 foot intervals along Segment 1 were observed to contain impacted sediment at varying thicknesses along the segment ranging from less than a foot to around 4.5 feet; and

- There appears to be a clean break between the impacted sediment and underlying native clay material.

Based on our field observations and preliminary analytical data, the impacted sediment does not appear to be affecting the underlying native clay. However, and it was a surprise to us, we did observe small amounts of an unknown petroleum material found in what appear to be very small permeable lenses in the native clay in three of the thirty-seven borings; the visual observations indicate this material is different in color, physical properties, and volatile content than the impacted sediment above the native clay. Unfortunately, because we did not anticipate finding this material, we were not prepared to characterize its nature or potential source given the sediment compositing methodology we were using. Even though the extent of the material appears very limited, the NWOD Working Group is evaluating opportunities to collect a representative sample so we can determine the characteristics of the material. We intend to communicate our findings with EPA and DEQ as they become available.

We really appreciated having you visit us at the site for some of the work, and hope it was helpful for you.

Thank you,

Laura

Laura McIndoe Briefer

Special Projects Manager

Salt Lake City Public Utilities

Phone: 801.483.6741

From: Elizabeth Palmer [mailto:epalmer@utah.gov]

Sent: Tuesday, December 21, 2010 11:56 AM

To: Briefer, Laura

Cc: hernandez.kathryn@epa.gov; Bill Rees

Subject: Re: NWOD Sediment Characterization Study - Response to Comments

Hi Laura,

could you please give us a short update on how the rest of the Sediment Char. Study went? For example, how many borings were taken? Was it 35 + 5? And how many of the total number showed petroleum residue/contamination? And, did they all bottom out in the clean clay material? (this one you might not know til the analytical #'s are back...)

Thanks,

Liz

Elizabeth Palmer, P.G.

Environmental Scientist

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>>> "Briefer, Laura" <Laura.Briefer@slcgov.com> 12/20/2010 1:19 PM >>>

Hi Kathy and Liz ?

This email is transmitting responses from the NWOD Working Group to general comments from EPA in its November 24, 2010 Memorandum regarding the Sediment Characterization Study conducted for Segment 1 of the NWOD Canal. Please contact me if you have any questions on this.

I hope you have a good holiday,

Laura

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